

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Title has been amended herein as requested in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended herein to correct informal matters. The amendments to Claims 1 and 18 contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The Title of the invention has been stated to be not descriptive. Applicant has amended the Title herein to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. It is believed that this amendment complies with the Examiner's request.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant admitted prior art in view of Endo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,384). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It appears that US Patent No. 6,507,384 only qualifies as prior art under 35 USC 103 via 35 USC 102(e). A Statement Of Common Ownership should disqualify US Patent No. 6,507,384 as prior art. (See MPEP 706.02(k)). It is respectfully submitted that due to the Statement of Common Ownership below US Patent No. 6,507,384 is

disqualified as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the claims of this application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

The present application and U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,384 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Seiko Epson Corporation. As such, U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,384 is disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the claims of the present application.

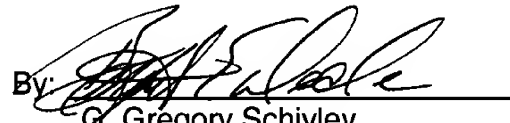
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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